

Recognitions at October 2009 State Board Meeting

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics.

- **Crestview Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind Team**

State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex (standing at left in back row) and State Board member Phillip Bowers (back row, right) congratulate Greenville County's Crestview Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind team as one of 19 from around the globe declared winners in the 2009 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The school was crowned World Champions in the "Teach Yer Creature" problem in Division One.



More than 850 teams from the United States and over 20 foreign countries participated in the 30th anniversary World Finals held in Ames, Iowa.

Crestview students competed against 53 teams in their division. They were the only team from the Palmetto State to earn a medal. Crestview's team worked throughout the year to create a humorous performance including a mechanical creature. They chose the theme of "How the Armadillo became the Texas State Critter."

Crestview has sent teams to the World Finals for the last four years. This same team won third place at

the Finals last year in Maryland. Team members include Taylor Carroll (Greer Middle), Joshua Carson (Sevier Middle), Evan Kramer (Charles Town Center), Charles and Christopher Ludlow (League Academy), Ben Teal (Crestview Elementary) and coaches Sandi Carson and Mary Ludlow.

- **National Aerospace Teacher of the Year**

State Superintendent Jim Rex (left) and State Board member Bonnie Disney (right) congratulate William "Bill" Austin, science teacher at Pocalla Springs Elementary School (Sumter District Two), named National Aerospace Teacher of the Year for building enthusiasm among K-12 students about science, technology, engineering and math.

Before becoming an educator, Austin served 21 years in the Air Force. He was accompanied by school principal, Lucille McQuilla. The Aerospace Teacher of the Year award came with a \$3,000 cash prize.

